

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**  
Akihisa HONGO et al. : Attorney Docket No. 2003\_0979  
Serial No. NEW :  
Filed July 17, 2003 :

**WAFER CLEANING APPARATUS  
(Rule 1.53(b) Divisional  
of Serial No. 09/572,432,  
Filed May 17, 2000)**

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of [X] the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and/or [] the additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the form PTO-1449 and each U.S. patent application listed below is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for each reference previously cited by or submitted to the Patent Office in prior parent application Serial No. 09/572,432.

1a.    [X] This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

**and thus no certification and/or fee is required.**

1b.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted  
after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office  
Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the  
application, and thus:  
  
(1)  the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, or  
  
(2)  the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c.  This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:  
after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which  
otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and  
thus:  
  
**the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and**  
  
**the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.**

2. It is hereby certified

- a.  that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement  
was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart  
foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the  
Statement, or
- b.  that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement  
was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart  
foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification  
after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in  
§1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

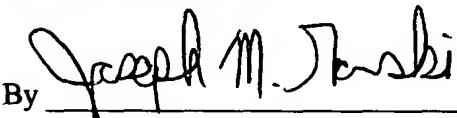
3.  Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or  
abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.

4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
  - a.  a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
  - b.  a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
  - c.  the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page ,
  - d.  the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstract,
  - e.  the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:
5.  A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Akihisa HONGO et al.

By



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July 17, 2003

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) <b>U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE</b> LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i> Date Submitted to PTO: July 17, 2003			ATTY DOCKET NO. <b>2003_0979</b>		SERIAL NO. <b>NEW</b>		
			<b>APPLICANT</b> <b>Akihisa HONGO et al.</b>				
			<b>FILING DATE</b> <b>July 17, 2003</b>		<b>GROUP</b>		
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,723,387	3-1998	Chen			
	AB	6,027,630	8-2000	Cohen			
	AC	6,110,345	8-2000	Iacoponi			
	AD	6,294,059	9-2001	Hongo et al.			
	AF	6,413,436	7-2002	Aegerter et al.			
	AF	6,254,760	7-2001	Shen et al.			
	AG	6,258,220	7-2001	Dordi et al.			
	AH	6,333,275	12-2001	Mayer et al.			
	AI	5,897,379	4-1999	Ulrich et al.			
<b>FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	8-37143	6/1996	JP			Abstract
	AK	41 09 955 A1	10/1992	DE			
	AL	1-253923	10/1990	JP			Abstract
	AM	2-253620	10/1990	JP			
	AN	2-272738	11/1990	JP			
	AO	5-13322	1-1993	JP			
	AP	6-124887	5-1994	JP			
<b>OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</b>							
	AQ	"Method Of And Apparatus For Cleaning Substrate" Ichiro KATAKABE et al., U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/679,305, filed October 6, 2000.					
	AR	"Method Of And Apparatus For Cleaning Substrate" Ichiro KATAKABE et al., U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/390,600, filed March 19, 2003.					
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>  Date Submitted to PTO: July 17, 2003			ATTY DOCKET NO. 2003_0979		SERIAL NO. NEW		
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,706,843	1-1998	Matsuo			
	AB	5,499,733	3-1996	Litvak			
	AC	6,012,966	1-2000	Ban et al.			
	AD	6,099,393	8-2000	Katagiri et al.			
	AE	6,106,907	8-2000	Yoshikawa et al.			
	AF	6,140,233	12-2000	Kwag et al.			
	AG	6,165,050	12-2000	Ban et al.			
	AH	6,180,020	1-2001	Moriyama et al.			
	AI	6,265,323	7-2001	Nakamura et al.			
	AJ	6,265,328	7-2001	Henely et al.			
	AK	6,332,835	12-2001	Nishimura et al.			
	AL	6,380,086	4-2002	Robinson et al.			
	AM	6,387,190	5-2002	Aoki et al.			
	AN	3,953,265	4-1976	Hood			
	AO	4,439,243	3-1983	Titus			
	AP	4,489,740	12-1984	Rattan et al.			
	AQ	4,510,176	4-1985	Cuthbert et al.			
	AR	4,518,678	5-1985	Allen			
	AS	4,732,785	3-1988	Brewer			
	AT	4,838,289	6-1989	Kottman et al.			
	AU	4,968,375	11-1990	Sato et al.			
	AV	5,176,783	1-1993	Yoshikawa			
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,349,978	9-1994	Sago et al.			
	AB	5,634,980	6-1997	Tomita et al.			
	AC	5,688,411	11-1997	Kutsuzawa et al.			
	AD	5,783,097	7-1998	Lo et al.			
	AE						
	AE						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ						
	AK						
	AL						
	AM						
	AN						
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
	AO	Co-pending application, Serial No. 09/893,624, filed June 29, 2001, entitled "Copper-Plating Liquid, Plating Method and Plating Apparatus".					
	AP						
	AQ						
EXAMINER				DATE CONSIDERED			

*\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.*